(b) Many of the issues raised in the article deserve close attention. Action has been initiated to improve the functioning of our airlines.

SC|ST OFFICIALS IN RAILWAYS

911. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of General Managers and Additional General Managers working in the Railways and the number out of them belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) the number of Principal Heads of departments and Divisional Railway Managers and the number out of them belonging to Sceduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(c) whether there are senior and eligible officers from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who have not been given the opportunity of Divisional Railway Managers; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) . (a) Number of

General Managers and equivalent	.. 19
Number of Scheduled Castes	.. 1
Number of Scheduled Tribes	.. Nil
Number of Additional General Managers	.. 9
Number of Scheduled Castes	.. Nil
Number of Scheduled Tribes	.. Nil

(b) Number of Principal Heads

of the Departments	.. 22
Number of Scheduled Castes	.. 2
Number fo Scheduled Tribes	.. 2
Number of Divisional Railway Managers	..57
Number of Scheduled Castes	.. Nil
Number of Schedule Tribes	.. Nil

(c) Suitable, senior and eligible officers from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community have been given the opportunity of posting as Divisional Railway Manager.

(d) Does not arise.

AIR SERVICES FROM GUWAHATI TO CALCUTTA VIA DHOBRI

912. SHRI NURUL ISLAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dhobri in Assam is one of biggest British built aerodroms in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to utilize it for greater public interest and if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) wheher to utilize the said airport, the Government propose to link Guwahati to Calcutta via Dhobri and Guwahati to Delhi via Dhobri by air; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d) There is no operational airfield in Dhobri fit for operation of civilian passenger aircraft. Indian Airlines and Vayudoot do not have any proposal to airlink Dhobri.

EXTENSION OF RAIL LINE FROM DINDIGUL TO MADURAI

913. SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend the broadgauge line from Dindigul to Madurai in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, when will it be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1992-93.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

CLOSURE OF LPG AGENCIES

914. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies lying closed at present, companywise and State-wise;

(b) the irregularities for which these have been closed, State-wise and whether the Government propose to review these agencies;

(c) wheher the Government propose to open more gas agencies in order to tide over the present crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) to (d) Closure is on account of violations of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines, stay orders of courts, family disputes, malfunctioning etc. There is no proposal to review all of them. LPG agencies are opened according to the Marketing Plan and Policies from time to time.

STATEMENT

	IOC	BPC	HPC
Andhra Pradesh	5	—	1
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Assam	1	—	—
Bihar	3	—	1
Gujarat	2	—	4
Goa	—	1	1
Haryana	1	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
Karnataka	—	—	1
Kerala	3	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	2	—	7
Maharashtra	—	—	5
Manipur	—	—	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—
Orissa	1	—	2
Punjab	1	—	1
Rajasthan	1	—	—
Sikkim	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	—	1	1
Tripura	1	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	4	—	—
West Bengal	1	—	1
UNION TERRITORY			
Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
Delhi	—	—	3
Daman & Diu	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—
TOTAL:	27	2	28